

Attachment A: Current Flight Service Functions

PREFLIGHT

Preflight services directly affect aircraft operations but are provided prior to actual departure. Pilot briefing is the translation, interpretation and summarization of the available weather and aeronautical data for the intended flight for flight planning purposes. Preflight briefings comprise three types of briefings: Standard, Outlook, and Abbreviated.

Preflight functions include, but are not limited to:

- Provide Standard Briefing
- Provide Abbreviated Briefing
- Provide Outlook Briefing

FLIGHT PLAN FILING

Flight plan filing is the completion, modification and submission of the electronic flight plan. Pilots and aircraft operators may file flight plans without obtaining a weather briefing. Flight Service will verify routing and altitude provide additional information, such as preferred routings and/or altitudes.

Flight plan filing functions include, but are not limited to:

- Advise pilots of appropriate procedures and responsibilities
- Format and transmit flight plans
- Coordinate all Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) amendments and cancellations with the appropriate Air Traffic Control (ATC) facility
- Coordinate flight plan information with appropriate Flight Service Station (FSS)/Military Base Operation (BASOPS)
- Part-time facilities coordinate all flight plans and other pertinent information with guard facility
- Maintain a Prefiled flight plan program

INFLIGHT

Inflight services are provided to aircraft in flight or operating on the airport surface over remote communication outlets (RCOs), i.e. radio, to aid in aeronautical decision making. Services include real time and forecast weather conditions, pertinent aeronautical information including Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs), flight planning and movement; delivery of Air Traffic Control (ATC) clearances, advisories or requests, and issuance of military flight advisory messages.

Inflight functions include, but are not limited to:

- Provide inflight services to aircraft in flight or operating on an airport surface
- Relay advisories, clearances or request
- Document inflight data as directed by national and local procedures

- Provide Routine Radio Contacts (including but not limited to: weather advisories, shifting to EFAS, NOTAMS, Altimeter Settings and Incorrect cruising altitude)
- Communicate with aircraft using prescribed procedures and standard phraseology
- Provide Message Relay services
- Forward and provide clearances, departure reports, progress reports and arrival reports
- Monitor all assigned frequencies
- Operate airport lighting
- Interface with Special Use Airspace Management System (SAMS) to provide real time Special Use Airspace (SUA) information
- Provide Runway Visual Range (RVR)/ Runway Visibility Value (RVV) values for the runway in use in accordance with (IAW) directives.
- Align the landing direction indicator with the favored or designated runway

AIRPORT ADVISORY SERVICES

Airport advisory services, both local and remote, are provided at airports without an operating control tower that have certified automated weather reporting via voice capability. Elements normally provided in an airport advisory are wind direction and speed, altimeter settings (barometric pressure), preferred runway and known traffic. Other elements such as density altitude and braking action are given as appropriate.

SPECIAL VISUAL FLIGHT RULES (SVFR) OPERATIONS

Special Visual Flight Rules (SVFR) operations are authorized in weather conditions less than Visual Flight Rules (VFR) minima for helicopters and fixed wing aircraft only within surface areas and only when requested by the pilot.

ENROUTE FLIGHT ADVISORY SERVICE (EFAS)

Enroute Flight Advisory Service (EFAS) provides en route aircraft with timely and pertinent weather data tailored to a specific altitude and route using the most current available sources of aviation meteorological information. EFAS is provided over dedicated frequencies by Flight Service Specialists with additional certification to perform those duties.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency services are provided when a pilot or aircraft is in distress. VFR aircraft are normally turned over to control facilities when adequate radar and communication coverage exists. When conditions warrant, Flight Service Specialists are trained to locate aircraft in distress using Very High Frequency (VHF) Omni-directional Range (VOR), Non-directional Beacon (NDB), Time & Distance, or pilotage.

Emergency services functions include, but are not limited to:

- Provide maximum assistance possible to aircraft in a distress.

- Provide Aircraft orientations
- Provide service to VFR aircraft in weather difficulty
- Provide Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) service
- Provide assistance to aircraft with explosive cargo
- Provide service to Navy Fleet Support Missions
- Provide notifications of aircraft from countries in the Special Interest Flight Program
- Provide assistance to aircraft declaring Minimum Fuel
- Provide assistance to aircraft with a bomb threat
- Provide Emergency Security Control of Air Traffic (ESCAT) services
- Provide Direction Finder (DF) services

DATA ENTRY – NOTICES TO AIRMEN (NOTAM), PILOT WEATHER REPORT (PIREP), AVIATION ROUTINE WEATHER REPORT (METAR)

Specialists receive and file NOTAMs with the United States NOTAM System (USNS), including NOTAMs for airports, navigational aids, and obstruction light outages. Flight Service Specialists actively solicit PIREPs during preflight and inflight communications with pilots, especially in periods of low visibility, turbulence, icing, and other serious weather conditions. Specialists assure timely dissemination of PIREP information.

Specialists input weather sequences from Certified Weather Observers.

Data Entry functions include, but are not limited to:

- Collect, Transmit, and disseminate weather products.
- Receive and Transmit METAR, Special Weather Report (SPECI), Pilot Report (UA) and Urgent Pilot Report (UUA) Reports
- Provide back-up/augmentation of automated weather observation
- Provide weather observations at Class D airspace airport
- Issue Aerial Refueling track NOTAM's
- Arrange for proper exchange of NOTAM information with other agencies/facilities
- FSS shall accept, categorize, and distribute NOTAMs associated on all systems.
- AFSS advises users of the status of Cape Canaveral Skid Strip Class D airspace
- Issue NOTAMS for SUA for unpublished activity
- Notify appropriate parties when circuit interruptions occur.
- Transmit Military Training Route (MTR)/ Military Operating Area (MOA) data to system users.
- Coordinate Presidential/Vice-Presidential flight information.
- Accept/coordinate information from military sources regarding aircraft movement, national defense, safety of flight, or emergencies.
- Advise appropriate ATC facilities/ North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) of Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) penetrations and Defense Visual Flight Rules (DVFR) flight plans.

- Process and forward Law Enforcement Alert information.
- Coordinate parachute jumping information.

SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR)

Search and Rescue (SAR) is initiated when an aircraft exceeds its expected time of arrival with no flight plan closure, when an aircraft is reported as overdue by a reliable source, or the pilot cannot be contacted. Flight Service is the central point for collecting and disseminating information on overdue or missing aircraft not on an IFR flight plan.

Search and Rescue (SAR) functions include, but are not limited to:

- Provide emergency service as needed.
- Initiate SAR procedures for overdue aircraft not on an IFR flight plan.
- Attempt to locate overdue aircraft.
- Collect and disseminate information on aircraft not on IFR flight plan.
- Provide Hazardous Area Crossing Service (Lake, Island, Mountain, Swamp Reporting Services).

BROADCAST SERVICES

Specialists record weather for broadcast on the Transcribed Weather Broadcast (TWEB), Hazardous Inflight Weather Advisory Service (HIWAS), Telephone Information Briefing Service (TIBS), and Automatic Flight Information Service (AFIS).

Broadcast service functions include, but are not limited to:

- Provide a TWEB broadcast
- Provide TIBS broadcast
- Provide HIWAS broadcast
- Provide AFIS broadcast
- Broadcast Density Altitude
- Make unscheduled broadcast about Alert Area activity